

The Bethel Courier.

VOLUME XXI, NUMBER 4

WINTER 1997

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



During the first four months of the campaign since the kick-off on September 7, more than \$70,000 has been received in cash and pledges from over 120 donors.

Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True Associates (Donors of \$10,000 or more)

Bingham Trust
Walter and Carolyn Hatch, Bethel
Michael S. Stowell, Lovettsville, VA

Enoch Foster Partners (Donors of \$5000 to \$9999)

Anonymous
Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC, Boston, MA

Agnes Hastings Straw Circle (Donors of \$2500 to \$4999)

Kenneth and Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel

Dr. William B. Lapham Honor Society (Donors of \$1000-\$2499)

Rep. Alvin and Lee Barth, Bethel
Bethel Rotary Club in Honor of Roger R. Conant and John B. Head

Ted and Kitty Chadbourne, Bethel
Lynda H. Chandler, Brunswick
Dana and Barbara Douglass, Bethel
Exxon Corporation, Houston, TX
William and Susan Herlihy, Bethel
Dick and Lorrie Hoeh, Bethel
Jane and Richard Hosterman, West Bethel
Arlan and Eleanor Jodrey, Bethel
Rebecca Kendall, Bethel
Alden and Mabel Kennett, Bethel
Thomas H. Mitchell, Culver City, CA
Roxanne Twitchell Sly, Brooklin
Stephen and Margaret Wight, Newry

21st Century Club (Donors of \$999 in honor of the Society's occupancy of the Foster-Straw House in 1999)

Stanley R. Howe, Bethel

(continued on page 6)



*Folding chair which once belonged to
Bethel-born Civil War General Cuvier
Grover.*

GEN. CUVIER GROVER'S CAMP CHAIR DONATED TO THE SOCIETY

The camp chair used by Bethel-born General Cuvier Grover (1828-1885) during the Civil War has been donated to the Society by John and Fumiko Head. General Grover, son of Bethel physician Dr. John Grover and his wife Fanny Lary Grover, was prepared for college, but declined to go, much to the regret of his parents. Instead he wanted to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point or he would become a merchant. Not being old enough to gain admission to West Point, he secured a position in Boston with Eben D. Jordan, later head of Jordan, Marsh. He worked there for two years, rapidly rising in the company until 1846 when his father obtained for him an appointment to West Point. After passing the entrance examinations, he excelled at the Academy, graduating fourth in his class. His record at West Point enabled him to join the Corps of Topographical Engineers, but he preferred the artillery and was assigned to the Fourth U.S. Artillery as a second lieutenant in 1850. Three years later, he was selected by order of the Secretary of War for engineering duty through the region now traversed by the Northern Pacific Railroad. Promoted to First Lieutenant in March 1855 and transferred to the 10th Infantry, he served in the expedition against the rebelling Mormons in 1856 and was Provost Marshall in Utah Territory in 1857. Here he was promoted to Captain in the Tenth Infantry and transferred to frontier duty in Fort Union, New Mexico. He was here when the Civil War began and was ordered by Rebel authorities to surrender all U.S. troops and munitions, but he quickly departed with his men to the Missouri River and

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(Grover, continued from page 1)

then reported for duty in Washington. He was offered the Colonelcy of the First Regiment of Sharpshooters, but he declined, preferring the broader field of service. He was soon promoted to Brigadier General of volunteers. In this capacity, he served with the Army of the Potomac. Here he fought in the battles of Second Bull Run, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Savage Station, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Bristoe Station, Winchester, Fishers Hill, and Cedar Creek (where he was wounded) as well as the Shenandoah Valley Campaign for which he received a brevet to Colonel in the Regular Army for gallantry in these actions. He was promoted to Brevet Major General of Volunteers in 1864. As commander of the District of Savannah that year, he saved the lives of 465 Confederate prisoners of war through his prompt and humane action of providing full rations at Fort Pulaski. Honorably mustered out of volunteer service in August 1865, he returned to the frontier in the Regular Army with the rank of Major (brevet Colonel) with the Third Infantry. He was commanding officer of Ft. Larned, Kansas in early 1866, but was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the 38th Infantry in July 1866 and transferred to the 24th Infantry in March 1869. Placed on the unassigned list in April 1869 during the reorganization of the Army, he was selected for the Third Cavalry in December 1870. He was commanding officer of Camp Verde and the Third Cavalry during 1871. Promoted to Colonel commanding the First Cavalry in 1875, he died suddenly in 1885 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, where he had gone hoping for improved health of what was recorded as "hemorrhage of lungs arising from pulmonary abscess as a result of the service and line of duty." With full military honors, he was laid to rest at West Point. He married twice, first in 1865, Susan Flint of Northampton, Massachusetts, who died in 1869, and second, Ella Miller in 1875. By his first wife he had one child Flint, and by his second, three: Fanny, Janet, and Cuvier.

ANNUAL FUND RAISES \$9,300

The 1997 Bethel Historical Society Annual Fund Campaign raised \$9,300 by 314 generous donors. Much appreciation is expressed to all who made this possible and to the Annual Fund Committee chaired by Margaret Joy Tibbetts with the assistance of Barbara D. Brown, John B. Head, Alden Kennett, and Louise Lincoln. Donors in 1997 included: Alan & June Abbott, Bethel; John R. Amann, Bethel, in memory of William F. Amann; Marjorie Farwell Anderson, Topsham, ME, in memory of the Farwell Family; Avery & Mary Angevine, in memory of Sumner Burgess; Ernest & Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Urban & Neda F. Bartlett, Bethel; Roland E. Annis, Jr., Bethel, in memory of Louise Annis; Mary A. Ashcraft, Westminster, MD; Nancy C. Babcock, Bethel, in memory of B. J. Walker; Romeo Baker, Bethel; Alvin L. Barth, Jr., Bethel; Clark & Neda Bartlett, Bethel; Otis J. Bartlett, Berlin, NH; Bessie Bennett, Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett and Sandra Mason; Donald G. & Katherine L. Bennett, Bethel; F. Harvey Bennett, Mayfield, NY; Francine Lake Bergman, Key Colony Beach, FL; Francis R. & Mary Lou Berry, Bethel, in memory of Eva T. Chapman and Helen E. Berry; John T. & Judith E. Bielecki, Belgrade, ME; Janet & Jett Black, Bethel; Elizabeth A. Blake, Bethel, in memory of Ernest Blake; Linona A. Blake, West Paris, ME, in memory of Clayton L. Blake; Gwyneth G. & Kenneth A. Bohr, Bethel, in memory of Sumner Burgess; Melody & Garret Bonnema, Bethel; Nancy V. Bourgon, Bucksport, ME, in memory of



Gen. Cuvier Grover

(Annual Fund)

Louis & Thelma Van Den Kerckhoven; Florine E. Bowden, Bethel, in memory of Harvey H. Jones; Colleen F. Boyd, West Bethel; Arlene Greenleaf Brown, Bethel; Beatrice B. Brown, Bethel, in honor of Isaac A. Cushman; John K. Brown, Bethel, in memory of Edwin L. Brown; Gurdon S. Buck, Watertown, MA; Lois S. Burgess, Bethel; Donald W. Calderwood, Mesa, AZ, in memory of Roma Warren Stanley; Catherine Canavan, Cool, CA; Ina B. Carey, Framingham, MA, in honor of Rob and Bertha Bean; Sara S. Carson, Oxford, ME, in memory of Arthur L. Head; Lynda H. & Stephen C. Chandler, Brunswick, ME; Albert S. Chapman, Harbert, MI; Daphne Chapman, Peabody, MA, in memory of Philip S. Chapman, Jr; Franklin S. & Rosalind R. Chapman, Bethel, in memory of Fred McMillin; Perry Chapman, Jr., Limington, ME, in honor of Perry Chapman, Sr.; Claudia E. Chicklas, Ware, MA, in memory of Claude F. Mason; Donald M. & Dorothy C. Christie, Gray, ME; The Bethel Citizen, Bethel; Fillmore & Shirley Clough, Bethel, in memory of Millard Clough; Howard W. & Virginia C. Cole, Bethel; Edith M. Coolidge, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Cynthia Cox, Perth, Scotland; Talbot H. & Dorothy O. Crane, Wilmington, DE; Allen & Jacquelyn K. Cressy, Chelmsford, MA, in celebration of Bethel becoming their permanent residence in 1998; Roland F. & Barbara J. Crocker, Riverside, RI, in honor of Doris Brown of West Bethel; Clayton & Lola Crockett, Bethel; Rita H. Davis, Bethel; Robert L. & Pauline P. Davis, Bethel; Thomas W. & Cathy L. Dawson, Laconia, NH; Gretchen Dock, Boston, MA, in memory of James J. Dock; Charles R. Doherty, S. Burlington, VT; Ron & Sue Dorman, Bethel; Stanley & Sylvia Dougherty, Lisbon Falls, ME, in memory of Fred McMillin; Dana C. & Barbara A. Douglass, Bethel; Richard & Grace Douglass, Bethel, in memory of Alice Taylor and Vernon and Maxine Brown; Carole & Richard Duplessis, Bethel; Diane T. Dyer, Westbrook, ME; Kathryn M. Eames, Cape Elizabeth, ME; Hermann J. & Harriet S. Ehringer, West Orange, NJ, in memory of Wilfred (Bill) Conary; Mary W. & Robert L. Eichel, Worcester, MA, in memory of Raymond Wentzell; Howard S. & Alice M. Fales, West Redding, CT; Walter K. & Phyllis A. Fales, Au Gres, MI, in memory of Alice M. (Kimball) Fales; Muriel Faudi, Bethel, in memory of Henry W. Boyker; Gordon A. Fish, St. Johnsbury, VT; Suzanne & Lincoln B. Fiske, Bethel; Albert E. Foster, Bethel, in memory of Myra Foster; Eber W. & Barbara L. Freeman, Bethel; Aldro S. French, Andover, ME; Dan & Anita Gibbs, Bethel, in memory of Guy & Madeleine Gibbs; Arthur & Ruth Gilbert, Bethel; George & Bette Gilbert, Bethel, in honor of Justin, Amanda, Kayce, & Ripley Gilbert; Shirley B. & Marilyn D. Gilbert, Bethel; Joan S. Goodhew, Atlanta, GA; Goodwin's Inc.,

Norway, ME; Robert W. Goodwin, Norway, ME, in memory of Harry Mason; Wilma B. Gorman; Bethel, in memory of Gardner Gorman; Marguerite B. & William L. Graham, Bethel; Lillian H. Grant, Gorham, ME, in memory of Keith N. Hamblen; Carol B. Hardenbrook, Biddeford, ME; Linda Harrington, Bethel; Colwyn F. & Judith E. Haskell, Bethel; Florence B. Hastings, Bethel; Michael R. & Leslie D. Hathaway, Conway, NH, in memory of Richard Davis; Walter H. & Carolyn C. Hatch, Bethel, in memory of Dorothea Hitzrot; John B. & Fumiko I. Head, Bethel, in memory of Paul B. & Olive A. Head; Clayton E. Heath, Jr., Norway, ME; Charles H. & Reona Heino, Boothbay Harbor, ME, in memory of Bo and Bessie Bean; Scott Heydon, Shaker Heights, OH, in honor of Pamela Heydon's Birthday; Richard C. & Dolores B. Hoeh, Bethel, in memory of Stanley L. Bencina; Rudolf & Barbara H. Honkala, Bethel; Kathy MacLeod Hooke, Bethel; Richard L. & Jane W. Hosterman, West Bethel; Geraldine S. & Rodney K. Howe, Bethel, in memory of Dr. Larry Kimball; Stanley Russell Howe, Bethel, in memory of Carl & Lettie Brooks, Edwin Brown, Norris Brown, Sumner Burgess, Catherine Lyon Bush, Dorothea Hitzrot, Gabriella Howe, Dr. Lawrence Kimball, Stuart Martin, Fred McMillin, Justice David Nichols, Helen Philbrook, Harold Powell, Mildred Rackliffe, and Virginia Weston; William H. Howe, Ashton, Ontario, Canada, in memory of Robert Decatur Hastings; Harlan J. & Gertrude C. Hutchins, Bethel; Hutchins Jewelers, Norway, ME; Lee H. & Virginia S. Hutchins, Bethel, in memory of Homer & Lillian Smith; Vernon Leland Ingraham, Wareham, MA, in memory of Ronald J. LaMeire; Dana E. & Mildred E. Jackson, Bethel; Arlan R. & Eleanor L. Jodrey, Bethel, in memory of Walter A. Jodrey; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA, in memory of Albert .. Johnson; Elaine B. & John K. Jones, Portland, ME; Helen Varner Judkins, Farmington, ME, in memory of Doris O. Lord; Alice P. & Royden A. Keddy, Gorham, ME, in memory of Muriel Park Mason; Joann Mooney, London, England, in honor of Josephine Kendall; Earlon A. & Mary C. Rice Keniston, Bethel; Alden T. & Mabel A. Kennett, Bethel; Roy E. Killgore, Guadalupe, CA, in memory of Katrina Killgore; Lois M. Kilroy, Bethel; John R. & Margaret King, Lakeland, FL; Herbert & Ruth Kittredge, Hanover, ME, in memory of Monique Rolfe; James D. Konkel, Portland, ME; Maureen Tinnesz & Ruth Kramer, Raleigh, NC, in honor of the Bartlett Family; Helen L. Kraul, Portland, ME, in memory of Karl O. Kraul and the Alister Lowe Family; Harry & Barbara L. Kuzyk, Bethel, in memory of Frances F. Carter; Jean Post Lamphear, Riverwoods, IL, in memory of Archie T. Post; Clifford W. & Elizabeth A. Laws, Kittery Point, ME, in memory of their happy days in Bethel; Daisy M. LeClair, Bethel; Gilbert C. & Carol R. LeClair, Green Valley, AZ, in memory of Syll LeClair, and Ray and Elsie York; Susan LeClair, Bloomington, MN, in honor of Daisy M. LeClair; Will & Mary Leland, Berkeley Heights, NJ; Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Elizabeth S. Lord, Bethel; Arlene D. Lowell, Bethel, in memory of Lloyd B. Lowell & Wilbur A. Davis; Frank & Beatrice F. Lowell, Newry, ME, in memory of Danny & Iola Forbes; H. Merrill Luthe, Portland, ME; Carolyn C. MacDormand, Bethel; Robert W. Madden, Hampstead, MD, in honor of Kate Luce; Maine Department of Human Services, Augusta, ME, in memory of Fred McMillin; James A. Mann, Lunenburg, MA, in memory of The Abbotts of Swan Hill; Jim Mann, Bethel, in memory of Mabel Abbott; John S. Mason, Merrimac, MA; Fr. Don L. McAllister, Portland, ME; Geneva Johnston McCoy, Bethel, in memory of Samuel F. McCoy; Robert McCrea, Meriden, CT, in

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Members and friends contribute to the Society in a wide variety of ways. One example was recently related to me by Society Curator of Collections Randy Bennett.

Eleanor Wesson of Lansdale, PA, a genealogical researcher who has been a good friend of the Society for several years, moved from her house into a small condominium with limited storage space. What to do with the large number of past genealogical periodicals and publications? She offered them to the Society and they are now part of the backbone of our genealogical resources. In addition, on an ongoing basis, she sends us new issues of the publications when she is finished consulting them. Even though she has never been to the Society, its reputation for family history research is such that she has placed her faith with us and in turn we are pleased to have these materials available for use by our many researchers from throughout the United States and Canada.

We greatly appreciate this contribution as well as many other non-monetary gifts that are so important to keep the Society strong as it moves forward with new challenges and opportunities.

Walter Hatch

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Lawrence D. Bennett, Westbrook
Eleanor Collins, Buffalo, MO
Richard L. Grover, Bethel
William and Susan P. Herlihy, Bethel
Steve Milligan, Rumford
Lawrence C. Smith, St. Pete Beach, FL

RECENT GIFTS

Among the recent gifts to the Society are the following: Wilma Gorman, misc. 19th century catalogs and magazines, pair of fireplace tongs that once belonged to Clark Edwards of Bethel; Ada Cotton Cummings, large photo of the Bethel Players (ca. 1948), mounted photo of the Upton stage near Screw Auger Falls; Don Bean, large collection of 19th century magazines and newspapers once owned by David Burnham of Hunt's Corner, Albany; Michael Stowell, typescript of "Ramblings" written in 1948 by Harry Swift, copy of STOCKMAN-GALLISON LINES (1984) by Katherine Dickson, given in memory of Capt. David Hackett (1828-1894); Linda Westleigh, large collection of COLONIAL HOMES, collection of photos of Bethel Bicentennial parade; Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., photo of John B. Chapman's house, which formerly stood on the site of Gould Academy's Gehring Hall; Karen Jordan, fancy chair made at the Bethel Chair Company; Basil Seguin, 3 notebooks with handwritten notations made by Cornelia A. Bennett in 1899 and 1900 while a student at Gould Academy; Elizabeth Holbrook, wine glass attributed to Luke Riley, ceramic syrup pitcher with metal cover and amber vinegar cruet with glass stopper owned by Riley's granddaughter Sarah, 1860 envelope addressed to Sarah Riley, pair of framed photos of Sarah Riley Wilson and James Frank Wilson, collection of photographs taken of the Sunday River valley in 1936; Tom McGinness, glass

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SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. They may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents must include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should add \$3 to cover mailing expenses.

1997 Calendars (New England Barns or Covered Bridges) \$9.95
Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50

Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 each
(Moses Mason House, Bethel Railroad Station, Summer House, Bethel Covered Bridge)

Booklets (The Family Farm, Made in Bethel) 75 cents each

Dr. Moses Mason and His House \$1

Molly Ockett \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2

1880 Map of Town of Bethel \$2

1880 Map of Three Bethel Villages \$2

1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1

1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$7.50

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Moses Mason Museum (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adults, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Post Cards: Dr. Moses Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House 10 cents each

Tote Bags (Moses Mason Museum logo) small \$7.50 large \$11.50
Placemat, 4 season, set of four Bethel scenes \$7.50

Books

Barnes, *Maine Life: The Photographs of N.C. Maxim* \$16.99 Paper

Bean, *East Bethel Road* \$50 Cloth

Bennett, *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History* \$39.95 Paper

Bennett, *Mt. Zircon Moon Tide Spring* \$19.95 Paper

Bennett, *Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture* \$20 Paper

Bennett, *The White Mountains* \$15.99 Paper

Bethel, *Maine Cemeteries* \$9.50 Paper

Crosby, *From An Old Leather Trunk* \$5 Cloth

Crosby, *I Was A Summer Boarder* \$5 Cloth

Fraser, *A History of Maine Made Automobiles* \$34.95 Cloth
\$24.95 Paper

Grumet, ed., *Northeastern Indian Lives 1632-1816*, \$19.95 Paper

Hathaway, *Everything Happened Around the Switchboard*
\$13.95 Paper

Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* \$24.95 Paper

Hutchinson, *The Rumford Falls & Rangeley Lakes Railroad*
\$20 Paper

Killgore, *Descendants of Joseph Killgore 1690-1764* \$65 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Bethel, Maine, 1768-1890* \$45 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Woodstock, Maine* \$19.95 Cloth

Little, *American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850* \$9.95 Paper

Maine the Pine State: From Prehistory to the Present \$29.95 Paper

Mills, *Genealogy of Samuel & Frances (Pembroke) Mills Family*
\$5 Paper

Parkman, *The Gould Academy Story* \$7.50 Paper

Russell, *Indian New England Before the Mayflower* \$15.95 Paper

Shirrefs, *The Richardson Lakes* \$29.95 Quality Paperback
\$39.95 Cloth

Visser, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*
\$19.95 Cloth

C. Wight, *A History of Newry* \$5 Paper

P. Wight, *Newry Profiles* \$5 Paper

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. If the items you ordered are in stock, they will be sent by return mail. For further information, please call toll free 1-800-824-2910.



June Abbott, left, discusses the basics of creating a quilt square with students from the West Sumner Christian School during a visit by the school to the Dr. Moses Mason House this fall.

(Recent Gifts, continued from page 3)

paperweight with photo of Bethel Hill common; Jane Rackliffe, 2 late 19th century dresses; Marion Learned Thurston and Karen Thurston Hodsdon, 1883 AMERICAN DICTIONARY used by Lawrence Searle, Bessie Searle Learned and Alta Smith of Newry; Dexter (Maine) Historical Society, early 19th century account book for an Otisfield, Maine tannery; Mary Valentine, copy of LOGGING IN THE MAINE WOODS (1994); Richard A. Valentine, copy of manuscript with historical notes on Bethel compiled by William A. Valentine; Mary Newcomb, World War II ration books and stamps, passenger receipt from Maine Central Railroad; Doris Brown, copy of 1882 booklet WILD RIVER TRAGEDY; Evelyn Bean, collection of items once owned by Harriet Merrill Forbes, wife of David Forbes who once owned the Bethel Citizen.

(Annual Fund, continued from page 3)

honor of Mary McCrea; James R. & E. Marna McGinniss, Bethel; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel, in memory of James K. & Agnes H. Haines; Fred & Penny Milton, West Boylston, MA; Stanley & Susan Milton, Andover, ME; Thomas H. Mitchell, Culver City, CA, in memory of Albert T. Mitchell; Marilyn R. Noyes Mollicone, Augusta, ME, in memory of Bernice Haines Noyes; James L. & Josephine G. Monahan, Bethel, in memory of Fred McMillin; Colista C. Morgan, W. Paris, ME; Nancy Morris, Bethel, in memory of Norris T. Brown; Helen Morton, Bethel; Herbert H. Morton, III, Andover, MA; Robert W. & Bethia D. Newmarker, Tolland, CT; David W. & Jeanette Nichols, Milan, NH, in memory of Joseph & Tina Nichols; Portia M. Nichols, Mountain View, CA, in memory of Harriet Lydia McKenney; George, Danna & Kate Nickerson, Bethel, in memory of Donald S. Brown; Jack & Lucy Nordahl, Bethel, in memory of Louise Aldrich Hoge; Leslie A. Noyes, Bethel; NTL Institute, Bethel; Carolyn Nygren, Medford, MA, in memory of Ethel Nygren; Marvin T. & Tineke Ouwinga, Bethel; James B. Owen, Bethel; Jean K. Owen, Bethel; Gilman W. Page, Sr., Frenchville, ME, in honor of Winifred Goud Page; Earlon A. & Mary D. Paine, Bethel; Joan H. Pariseau, Turner, ME, in honor of Thelma Bean Hazling; Marilyn A. Parker, Milford CT, in memory of Guy M. Parker, Jr.; Lillian E. Perkins, Bethel, in memory of James & Ernest Perkins; Persis G. Post, Bethel; Betty B. Prescott, Bangor, ME, in memory of Evans & Gladys Wilson; Eleanor Learned Pugliese and

(Continued on page 6)

EDITOR'S CORNER

The response to the Main Street article in the last issue was very enthusiastic. Several readers have responded with additional information which appears elsewhere in this issue under "Our Readers Write." I trust there will be more comments with the publication of the second installment in this issue. It is always useful to have more information as the Society attempts to document the history of the town.

Robert Greenleaf and Arlene G. Brown recall that Edridge Steeves once lived at site 8 as did Stanley and Althea Brown.

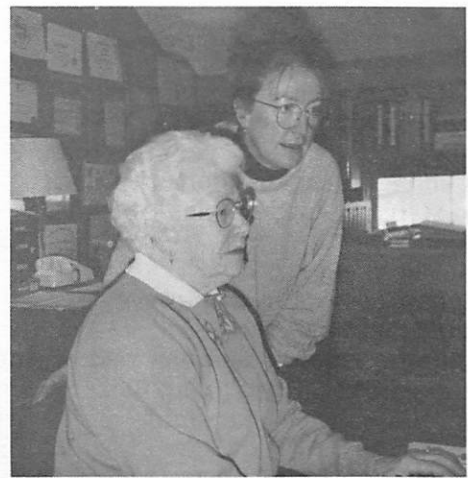
Kathryn Davis Hamlin called to say that she did not live at "Amestead" [site 20], but on Spring Street.

Apologies go to Robert and Janet Spidell of Andover, ME and Anaheim, CA for misspelling their last name in the last issue. Somehow an additional "e" crept in where it should not have been.

The "Bethel Soldiers of '61" column is taken from the *Oxford Advertiser* not the *Oxford Democrat* as was cited in the last issue.

This fall we had a change in the staff of the Society. Mildred Jackson, who had served as the dedicated office secretary since 1984, retired. Fran Bernier, who comes to us with much experience, has assumed the position. We will miss Millie's presence, but she continues to volunteer for mailings. Thanks so much Millie and welcome Fran.

It might be of interest to some readers to learn of a family tradition that lasted almost 200 years. That is what I call the "Agnes" factor in Bethel history. "Agnes" believed to be from the Greek word hagne, meaning chaste or sacred, begins in this family with Agnes Straw Mason, wife of Dr. Moses Mason, born in Brentwood, NH in 1793. She must certainly have been the inspiration for her sister Abigail Straw Hastings naming her only daughter Agnes Straw Hastings, born in Bethel in 1837. She married her first cousin William O. Straw. When they returned from the west in 1901, they purchased what the late Robert D. Hastings told me once was "the most expensive house in Bethel" for \$5000. This is the same building currently being acquired by the Society for more than 50 times that amount. Mrs. Straw, who died in 1923, gave the structure (formerly Enoch Foster's law office) now the stack section of the Bethel Library to the Library Association in her will. Her house was sold to the Bethel Inn in 1923 for \$10,000. Her brother John Decatur Hastings named one of his daughters, Agnes, born in 1859, undoubtedly in honor of his sister and/or his aunt. She married Fred Howe. Her sister Mary married Fred's brother William and they had another Agnes, born in 1889 (mother of Society members Mary Lee Harris and Carol Hardenbrook and sister to C.D. Howe of "Minister of Everything" fame in Canada), presumably in honor of her sibling. Agnes Hastings Howe, Fred's wife, had a son John Hastings Howe, born in 1891, who named his daughter Agnes in honor of his mother. She was Agnes Marion Howe, born in 1915, who married James Haines and died in 1991. A charter member of the Society, she was long active in the organization. So from the birth of Mrs. Mason in 1793 to the death of Agnes Howe Haines in 1991, there have been five women by the name of Agnes. For 198 years then, there has always been at least one "Agnes" alive and well in the family. SRH



Virginia Hutchins works at the Society's computer assisted by new office secretary Fran Bernier, who joined the staff this fall.

MEMBER PROFILE

Virginia Hutchins was born in Bethel, attended local schools, and graduated from Gould Academy in 1939. Prior to her marriage she worked for the local dentist Dr. E. Linwood Brown from 1940-46. She married Lee Hutchins in 1946 and they had four children and later eight grandchildren. Mrs. Hutchins worked for SAD # 44 for eighteen years, retiring in 1983 as an instructional aide.

A member of the Society since 1985, she has been a regular contributor to the Annual Fund and has donated artifacts to the collections. For several years, she has contributed much volunteer time to Society mailings including those that include getting the Courier to more than 1200 members and friends. Earlier this year, she was elected by the Board of Trustees as an Honorary Member of the Society, the highest membership honor, for her outstanding volunteer contributions.

DIARY OF WILLIAM S. HASTINGS

1934--December 1, Paris, bot [bought] refrigerator. December 2, worked all day around shed. December 3, cutting birch. December 4, cleaned out henhouses. Went to Paris after refrigerator and took plow to Walker's to be repaired. Rainy. December 5, cutting birch. Bob in Portland. December 6, cutting and hauling birch to Bryant Pond. Cold and windy. December 7, same as yesterday. December 8, cold. Just above zero. Built fire in Coburn cellar for first time [to keep potatoes from freezing]. December 9-18, cutting and hauling birch. December 19, bought Russel[l] Swan's team. Snow storm and rain. Slippery going.

December 20, colder. Icy. Went to Bethel. December 21, hauled wood, etc. December 22, stormy. Helped Russell kill a cow. December 23, 12 degrees below zero. Led Dandy to Greenwood. 13 and a half miles on foot. Very little snow. Maybe 5-6 in. December 24, cut birch. December 25, Christmas. Cole's folks [his wife's family] up here. Kids had a tree. Not very cold. December 26, 20 degrees. Overcast and stormy. Snowed all day. We cut birch. It snowed 8 inches from noon till 4:30. Had a hard time getting home from woods. Night +29 deg. Wind blowing a gale. December 27, blew all night. -4 deg. this morning. Gale all day and snow blew. Roads blocked for first time. Plow came thru this P.M. 6 deg. at noon. Made a wood box.

(continued on page 8)

(Capital Campaign, continued from page 1)

Robert Chapman Founders

(Donors of \$500 to \$998)

Anonymous

Geoffrey and Martha Clark, Portsmouth, NH

John and Margaret King, Lakeland, FL

Persis Post, Bethel

Martin Silver, Norway

Friends of the Foster-Straw House

(Donors of up to \$499)

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Twitchell Family Challenge

Mrs. Roxanne Twitchell Sly has issued a challenge to all Twitchell descendants to join her in contributing enough to have one of the rooms named after the Twitchell family. The minimum price of a room is \$25000. Anyone wishing to learn more about this challenge is encouraged to call the society (800) 824-2910 or use E-Mail: history@bdc.bethel.me.us.

Please send all tax deductible contributions to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

JOIN THOSE LISTED ABOVE IN HELPING TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY! PLEASE SEND YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION NOW!

The "Elms" of Bethel Inn stands beside the current Society headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House on Broad Street. In September, the Society launched an ambitious project to acquire, renovate and provide for opera-



Society Life Member William Herlihy recalls former times with Alys Parsons during the Louise Dickinson Rich Oral History Night at the November monthly meeting which drew about one hundred members and friends.

tions of this building as a proposed addition to its facilities. Named for longtime former residents, the building would then be known as the Foster-Straw House. This would provide critically needed space for exhibits, expanded museum store and craft operations, more adequate research room and collection storage as well as an education room for all ages. This addition would also allow the Society to expand its focus to become a truly Northern New England institution and establish its Center for Local and Regional History with programming, conferences, publications, exhibits, lectures, etc. relating to that region.

BOOK REVIEW

FIELD GUIDE TO NEW ENGLAND BARNS AND FARM BUILDINGS by Thomas Durant Visser. (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1997. Pp. x, 213. Cloth. \$19.95.)

Thomas Durant Visser has written a timely book in an attempt to document not just the structure of barns, silos, sugar houses, granaries, and other farm buildings but also their traditions and innovations before the surviving architectural evidence of this remarkable rural heritage is lost forever. Visser, who teaches in the historic preservation program at the University of Vermont, has carefully surveyed the six state region for representative barns and outbuildings. With over 250 photographs, he has provided numerous examples of particular architectural and technical features which for many years dominated the landscape of rural New England.

In his text, Visser includes accounts of 18th and 19th century observers and extensive narrative descriptions of all kinds of farm buildings from ice houses to outhouses. He records historic uses and focuses on specific features such as cupolas and the use of sheathing. For scholars, tourists, and others interested in New England's rural heritage, this is an indispensable book. SRH

(Annual Fund, continued from page 4)

Family, Bethel, in memory of Anthony L. Pugliese; Kenneth H. & Sarah B. Ramage, Bethel; Richard D. Rasor, Bethel, in honor of Tom Boyle; Elinor E. Rensch Noblesville, IN; Henry & Elizabeth Robertson, Bethel; Adelaide R. Robertson, Yarmouth Port, MA, in memory of David H. Robinson; Sandy MacKay Robinson, West Charlton, NY, in memory of Abbie Brown; Frances Saunders, Bethel, in memory of Wallace Saunders;

Dorothy G. Schmidt, Augusta, ME, in memory of Hazel Wheeler and Florice Paul; Eva L. Schools, Bethel; Eric G. & Lucia L. Schwarz, Bethel, in honor of Bob & Polly Davis' 50th Wedding Anniversary; Peter F. & Anne E. Scott, Gettysburg, PA; Charles N. & Edith W. Seashore, Bethel; Irene M. Sessions, West Bethel, in memory of Robert V. Chapman; Martin W. Silver, Norway, ME, in honor of Rose Woods Silver; Roxanne T. Sly, Brooklin, ME; Arthur J. Smith, San Mateo, CA, in memory of his loved ones; Arthur & Betty Smith, Bethel; Warren W. Stearns, Paris, ME, in memory of Muriel S. Park Mason; Bertha Stevens, Bethel, in memory of Clyde Stevens; Bernice L. Stevens, Scarborough, ME; Ranald & Sarah Stevens, Bethel, in memory of their parents; Thomas & Dorothy Post Stevens, East Greenwich, RI, in honor of Persis G. Post's 90th Birthday; Henry G. & Patricia E. Stewart, Boston, MA; Dexter M. & Janet E. Stowell, Bethel, in memory of Sumner Burgess; George P. Stowell III, Falmouth, ME, in memory of Arthur L. Head; Jonathan & Rowena Stowell, Shirley, MA, in memory of Arthur L. Head; Michael S. Stowell, Lovettsville, VA, in honor of Michael James Lloyd & Crystelle Mary Head; The Sudbury Inn, Bethel; Jane Chapin Sullivan, Portland, ME; Robert & Violet Swain, East Andover, ME, in memory of Lucie Morse Swain; Albert H. Taylor, Cumberland Center, ME; Muriel Brinck Thompson, West Springfield, MA, in memory of Muriel Park Mason; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Bethel, in memory of W. Ashby Tibbetts, Mary Tibbetts Freeman & Fred McMillin; Samuel H. & Natalie H. Timberlake, Bethel, in memory of Fred McMillin; John & Margaret Trinward, North Waterford, ME, in memory of Hazel Trinward; Union Water-Power Company, Lewiston, ME; Frances A. Usenik, Kennebunkport, ME, in memory of Matthew Usenik; Edmond J. & Sudie Vachon, Bethel; Mark E. Vail, Salt Lake City, UT; Mary E. Valentine, Bethel; Helen Davis Von Bernuth, North Conway, NH; Dean E. & Priscella L. Walker, Kittery, ME, in honor of Rev. & Mrs. Clifford Laws; Margaret S. Ward, King of Prussia, PA, in memory of the William L. Farwell Family; Pamela G. Weeks, New Orleans, LA; Robert E. Wendig, Huntingdon Valley, PA, in honor of the Sunday River Inn; Erland S. & Margaret R. Wentzell, Sebago, ME, in honor of Stanley H. Wentzell; Les Whall, Salt Lake City, UT, in honor of Marzee Whall; Mary E. Wheeler, Bethel; Roger Wheeler, Bethel; Elizabeth Delano Whiteman, Philadelphia, PA, in memory of Norris T. Brown; Frederick O. & Sue L. Wight, Newry, ME; Priscilla C. Wiley, Woodbury, CT, in memory of Ruth Carver Ames; Waldo Williams, Milan, NH; Dennis & Rita Wilson, Bethel; Edna M. York, Bethel, in memory of Robert S. York; Raymond E. York, Camarillo, CA, in memory of Hannibal Grover; Robert M. & Jeanette G. York, Orrs Island, ME; Archie L. & Jane B. Young, Bethel, in memory of Robert M. & Bertha W. Bean.

OUR READERS WRITE

Donald and Arlene Brown rented "Amestead" [Number 20] from Kimball Ames and operated the Don Brown Studio there from 1946 until 1951 when the studio moved to the space next to the Bethel Citizen in the Cole Block. During the same time, Arlene gave piano lessons and also had a book shop here, selling the latest titles. Sylvia Bird sublet space from them for her beauty shop, and during the 1950-51 school year, Miss Mina Stevens (1882-1976) boarded with them while she taught at the East Bethel School.

Regarding who had the first pizza oven in Bethel, George Nickerson and Maryvonne Wheeler remember Norma Jodrey selling pizza at the Bethel Spa [Number 43] in the 1960s. They recall Norman Stone as being one of the first customers, and how he liked rare hamburger on his pie and a Pepsi with it. George remembers Sundays in 1969 when he and John E. Grover would make 300 pizzas at the Spa.

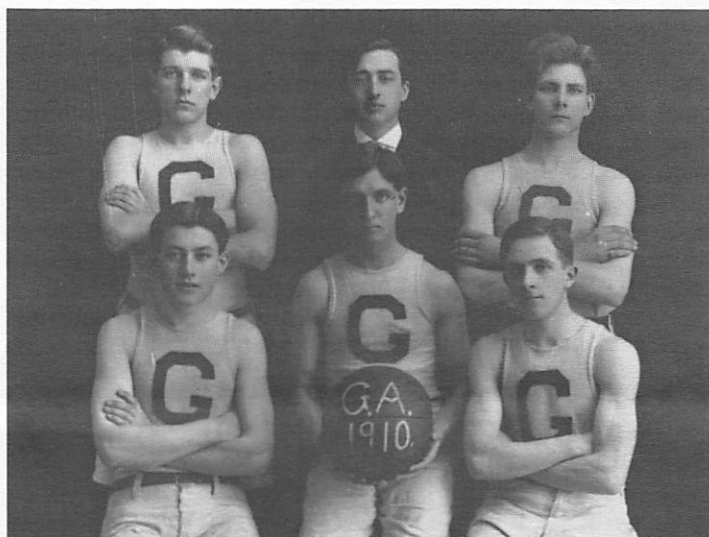
Danna B. Nickerson

IN MEMORIAM

Died, 12 August 1997, Carl Brooks, West Paris, Senior Member

Died, 23 November 1997, Mildred Rackcliffe, Sumner, Senior Member

Died, 19 December 1997, Helen M. Philbrook, Augusta, Sustaining Member



Gould Academy 1910 basketball team. L to R, 1st row: Clinton Bennett, Harry Coolidge, Ralph Young; 2nd row: Ivan Arno, John Carver, Manager, R. Thurston.

1998 MONTHLY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

January 1, Discussion of film "A Midwife's Tale"; February 5, Annual Historical Film Night; March 5, Oral History Night: Growing Up In Bethel; April 2, "Bethel During the Spanish-American War," Stanley R. Howe, Director, Bethel Historical Society; May 7, Collecting Old Photographs, Sidney Gordon; June 4, "C.A. Stephens and his Cousins," Larry Glatz, Friends of C.A. Stephens; July 2, Annual Picnic, McLaughlin Gardens, South Paris; August 6, Oral History Night: Memories of the Bethel Inn on its 85th Anniversary; September 3, "A City of Vivid Contrasts": Poland Spring Resort," David Richards, Margaret Chase Smith Library; October 1, Annual What's It Night; November 5, "Greenwood in the Forties: Addison E. Verrill and his World," Herb Adams, Friends of C.A. Stephens; December 3, Annual "Christmas with the Masons."

All meetings unless otherwise designated are held at the Dr. Moses Mason House, 14 Broad Street, beginning at 7:30 P.M. The annual picnic will begin at 5:30 P.M. and the annual meeting will be preceded by a pot luck supper at 6:30 P.M.

Wind lessened at night. +2 deg. December 28, -4 deg. Fair and calm. Hauled manure to Crow Farm, 6 loads. Road is good. Cloudy at night. December 29, snowing 6-8 inches. Went to Bethel. Finished manure in p.m. Windy at night +16 deg. December 30, Sunday. Blew a gale all day. Thermometer around 0 deg. to 6 deg. at noon. Drifting badly. Roads blocked and no plow today. December 31, -8 deg. Clear and cold but warmer at noon. Weather breeder. Started cutting ice. About 850 cakes today. 3 saws going all the time and I more part of the time. Clouding up at night.

1935--January 1, A.M. Temp. +6 [degrees] F. P.M. Temp. +24 [degrees] F. Happy New Year! And a heavy snow in progress. We sawed ice and filled Chas. Reed's ice house [at Bean's Corner]. Finished at 1 P.M. Have had three snows 6" or more in a week and 2 hard blows. Some winter! 13 inches in all today. Blowing all night. January 2, A.M. 6 [degrees] P.M. 14 [degrees] Blew all night and fair morning. Roads blocked and plow broke down. We broke road to John Howe's pulp on the Fleet Place [approximately 1 mile uphill behind the Hastings Farm]. Snow just the length of our legs. Had to shovel most of the way, swamp a piece of road, etc. Wind raved all day, worse at night. January 3, 6/14 [degrees], cloudy but fairly warm. Bob went to Portland. John [Howe], Rodney [Howe], and I broke roads and hauled wood. Road doesn't tread very well. Snow from 26" to 30" on the level in the woods. January 4, 4/10 [degrees], colder and windy. Hauled pulp for John [Howe]. Farm Bureau meeting at Grange Hall. Borrowed Swan's lengthwise rigging to haul [wood] with. Can't keep the pulp on a crosswise body. January 5, 5/6 [degrees], calm and not so cold. Hauling pulp. Swamped roads and skidded boles and stumps. Not a road on the job. Pulpwood isn't knotted or barked. Generally a first class, shipshape job of woods work. And how!!! Chip flew from my axe and broke frame of my glasses. Mended with Duco cement. January 6, -10/+30 [degrees], cold and clouding up. Went to Greenwood. Warmed up suddenly and started to melt. January 7, +28/30 [degrees], warm and cloudy. Went to Portland with spuds. Foggy all the way. Snow going fast down the line. Got my glasses mended. Home at 7:15 P.M. Installation of officers of the Grange in eve. [Hastings was Treasurer]. January 8, +32/34 [degrees], warm and foggy. Bob gone to Portland. Nigh horse is sick. Went to Bethel in a.m. Doctored horse most of the P.M. Kidneys are not working at all. Hocks swelled. January 9, 34/36 [degrees], raining. Cleaned hen house, put up potatoes. Doctored horse. Nephritis is what he has. Stoppage of the kidneys, probably caused by gravel. January 10, 34/42 [degrees], still raining. Bob gone to the city [Portland]. Spuds bring 42 cents per bu. Cleaned hen houses. Put up a load of spuds. Horse about the same. January 11, 30/6 [degrees], snow squalls. Bob gone with another load. Horse not so well. Put up spuds and Farwells. Colder and windy. Greenleaf [veterinarian] here at 10:30 P.M. January 12, 4/0 [degrees], windy and colder. Horse a little better. Butchered for Farwells. Went to Bethel in A.M. Made shafts for 1 horse sled in p.m. January 13, -8/10 [degrees], cloudy and calm. Went to Greenwood. Roads icy and my brakes were frozen. Started to snow about 6:30 P.M. January 14, 6/2 [degrees], still snowing. Light stuff. About 5 inches fell. Then blew! I made a dray for 1 horse. Sick horse is better. January 15, -6/2 [degrees], started cutting birch. Snow has settled to about 8 inches and crust holds a man very well. Cutting up [on] the cross road. Hauled some with 1 horse. January 16, -18/0 [degrees], some cold! Cutting birch pulp



Harry W. Kinsley of the Maine Society, Sons of the American Revolution, speaks to a group of Sons and Founders and Patriots which held a joint meeting at the Dr. Moses Mason House in August.

and cordwood. Hauled three loads out in P.M. Sick horse about well. We exercise him every day. January 17, -10/10 [degrees], cloudy. Went in to cut birch and cordwood. Started snowing. [Leslie] Noyes came up. Snowed all day and all night. 16 inches fell. We cut all day. January 18, 12/6 [degrees], snow stopped about 7 A.M. Started to blow. Bob hauled wood to Bethel for John [Howe]. Leslie [Noyes] and I cut birch. Snow all over everything. January 19, -4/8 [degrees], calm and warmer. Nice clear day. Weather breeder. Cut birch. Bob hauled out with one horse. January 20, 0/20 [degrees], cloudy and began to snow. Snowed nearly all day but didn't pile up much. Bob sick with cold. January 21, 16/32 [degrees], cloudy and warm. Started for Portland at 9:45. Took Ruth to So. Paris for her Aunt's funeral. Uncle Orvern went on with me. Willard's [Farwell] truck broke down and we fixed it. Rained and was slippery. Bumped a truck and broke a headlamp lens. Bought a defroster for windshield. Slow trip. Home at 9 P.M. January 22, 35/10 [degrees], clearing and warm. Got a new saw plate and filed it. Cut birch. Bob hauled and broke roads. Took our horse that had been sick on one trip. January 23, -4/+4 [degrees], clouding up. Cut birch. Storming in evening. January 24, 8/6, storming hard. N. East blizzard all day. Some 18" or 20" came and drifted as it came. Then wind shifted at night. Record storm of years. I am laid up with some vertebra out of place. January 25, -4/-6 [degrees], blowing hard. Roads blocked. I'm still on my back. Plow came thru after dinner. Hard storm to plow. January 26, -8/-10 [degrees], clear and warming up some. I made a date with Dr. Swett of Norway, an osteopath and went to Bethel and Norway. He helped me alot. Put the bones back in place. January 27, -18/-10 [degrees], cold and clear. Temperature below zero all day. I stayed in all day favoring my back. January 28, -12/-6 [degrees], cold and clear. Cut birch. Could not do much on account of my back and deep snow. Have to shovel alot for every tree. January 29, -8/0, clear and warmer. Hauled birch and pulp today. January 30, -12/-10 [degrees], taken sick with one of my chronic liver spells. Sick all day. January 31, -16 [degrees], sick in house. Cold as the devil. Crew hauling birch. Bob swapped the balloon tires from the dual wheels of the truck for cords with Jesse Chapman. New Goodyear All Weather Cords 8 ply run about 100 miles for \$17.50 each. February 1, -22/+16 [degrees], feeling better. Coldest of winter but it is fair and warming up. I got out in P.M. a little. Plow came thru and winged out the high snow banks. 58" in Portland in Jan. Guess we had as much. February 2, 25/33 [degrees], Candlemas Day. Warm and cloudy. Sun peeped thru for about 3 minutes in all day. Good day for

Ground Hog. I hauled wood and birch. February 3, 25/30 [degrees], cloudy and warm. Went to Greenwood. February 4, 25/6 [degrees], clearing and cooler. Bob went to Portland with a load for Johnson. I hauled wood from the swamp. Snow is deep and road is up high. Put up spuds in P.M. February 5, 0/12 [degrees], clouding up. Put up spuds. Came out clear and warm. Hauled wood in P.M. February 6, -8/+8 [degrees], nice weather. Bob in Portland for 3rd trip this week. Spuds are 60 cents per cwt. at Hannafords. 70 cents at Johnsons. We hauled wood in P.M. Put up another load of potatoes. February 7, -10/-4 [degrees], same as yesterday. February 8, -10/8 [degrees], I went with a load of spuds. Clear and warm after I started. Left here at 9:50 A.M. Pulled in to Johnsons at 1:05 P.M. Road are fine. Had a hard job unloading. Came home in 2 and 3/4 hrs. February 9, 20/16 [degrees], dug grave for Nina Swan. Weather: snowing lightly. February 10, -2/10 [degrees], funeral for Nina Swan. Weather clear and warmer. Went to Greenwood after 3 P.M. February 11, 18/15 [degrees], clear and warm. Bob went to Portland. We put up a load of spuds and I hauled pulp in P.M. Roads are fine. February 12, -10/10 [degrees], cloudy in morning but cleared and warmed up. Bob in Portland. Put up a load of spuds and hauled two loads of pulp to River. Spuds are 60 cents to 65 cents per cwt. and no demand. Leslie [Noyes] finished cutting. February 13, 4/10 [degrees], clear and real warm. Real spring day. Cut fir pulp in swamp. February 14, -10 [degrees], warm. Cut fir pulp and saw logs. Finished hauling pulp. Clouding up. February 15, +15 [degrees], snowed four-five inches. Clear and warm. Snow melting. Hauled birch to Bethel. February 16, +20 [degrees], Bob went to Portland. We shoveled road to my cellar. Put up 100 bu. spuds for Chipman. February 17, +18 [degrees], snowing. Went to Greenwood and South Paris. A few firms junking the Mason Mfg. Co. plant. Bought some (2) potato trucks to use in the cellars, a steel wheelbarrow, a bag and barrel truck, all for \$12. Didn't snow much. Maybe 2 inches. February 18, +22 [degrees], clearing. Bob gone to Portland with a load for Chipman. We put up a load and hauled wood. Bob brought home 4 potato trucks, wheelbarrow, grain truck, and 2 jack screws. Bargain on everything especially the jacks. 2 1/4 " screw, raise two feet, and a steel bar, for \$1 each. February 19, +2/15 [degrees], starting to snow. Bob in Portland. Put up a load. Repaired harness, cleaned out chimney. Snowed about 4 or 5 inches and blew at night. February 20, +4 [degrees], clear and calm. Cleaning out hen houses. Hauled wood. In P.M. I started to rebuild the truck body. Snow squalls and strong NW wind at night. February 21, +8 [degrees], cold and windy but clear. Finished truck body and went to Greenwood after a cow we bought off Leo [Cole, his brother-in-law]. Guernsey six years old due to calve within a week. \$55. Seems to be a very fine cow. February 22, 0 [degree], cold and clear. Hauled birch. Slid off road and got stuck. No shovel. Unloaded some. Skidded the road and pulled it out. February 23, +6 [degree], snowing. Bob's waste water has frozen. He worked all day on it, but had to disconnect it finally. I went to Bethel. Snowed 4-5 inches. February 24, +24 [degrees], clear and warmer but guess the wind will blow. Went to Greenwood after fixing celotex lining for truck sideboards. Fine day. Melted alot. February 25, 34/26 [degrees], cloudy but warm. Bagged spuds and hauled wood. Snow settled some. February 26, 26 [degrees], cloudy. Looks like a storm. Cleared and we went in woods. Bob hauled. Dad [George Kimball Hastings, born in 1863] and I cut birch. Started a new road. Started a vertebra out of place. February 27, +10 [degrees], set an

incubator a-warming. Put up a load of spuds for Chipman. The new cow dropped a bull calf. Bob hauled wood. February 28, zero, cold, some wind. Bob in city. We finished hauling cordwood and from swamp. 11 cords split-wood, 4 1/2 cords limb wood, 4-5 cords birch. Took potato planter apart to order parts. Set incubator with 248 eggs.

(to be continued in the next issue)

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the OXFORD ADVERTISER, 27 August 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway

The general features of the Battle of Winchester on the 19th of September 1864 have already been described in the sketch of Gen. Cuvier Grover. As the 12th Maine was his Division, it is not now necessary to go over the ground particularly again. The Rgt. occupied the very centre of the front line of the battle. When Grover led forward his troops to charge the strong position of the enemy, no Regt. followed its gallant leader with more bravery and valor than the 12th Maine. As the Rebel lines were pierced and two fresh Divisions were hurled upon Grover's men to stop their victorious career, they in turn were forced back. It is at such times as these that the real mettle of the men are shown. The Maine soldiers on that line as on the line at Cedar Creek at the critical moment were found equal to the occasion. Had they broken and run in a perfect rout the battle must surely have been lost. The Maine men, particularly the soldiers of the 12th Maine, were handled so well that they fell back in good order to the point designated by Gen. Grover for them to face the front again, which they did when another Division of the 19th Corps swept forward to the support of Grover. The gallant Major G.A. Hastings fought like a hero from the beginning to the end of the battle. And here we will relate an incident characteristic of the man. While at Bethel collecting material for these articles, the writer asked him about an event connecting with the Division which moved forward to support Grover, and which it was supposed he might know something about. His reply was, "I cannot tell. Some men know what is going on all over a battlefield. I had as much as I could do to look after my men." I have often thought about that remark and when one is so sure about incidents happening in other parts of the field where he should not be. I conclude that he at least was either not attending to his duty or his statement ought to be taken with considerable allowance.

It was well for the country and the fame of Gen. Sheridan that Maine men like Maj. Hastings were on that line, who could be depended on to fall back in the face of a victorious foe to the exact point required, halt and face to the front again. That thing isn't done every day in battle. Well might the official report say in speaking of the part taken by the 12th Maine Regt. in that battle: "The conduct of the men throughout that day's fight was admirable." When at the close of the day, the victory had been won, they had a right to feel that no Regt. in Sheridan's army had done its duty better. Its loss in the battle was 14 killed, 84 wounded and 15 missing. Of the Bethel men only John Cooper was wounded. Two-thirds of soldiers reported as "missing" were taken prisoner, which shows there was very little, if any, straggling, and that they were kept well in

(continued on page 10)

(Bethel Soldiers, continued from page 10)

hand. To be exact, but one man was reported as running away in the face of the enemy.

On the rout of the enemy, the Regt. was among those that pushed forward in pursuit. They were in reserve at Fisher's Hill on the 22nd, when after the enemy works had been carried, they were sent to the extreme front, and followed the Rebels all night, prisoners, arms, and guns being captured. The Regt. was in the whole pursuit of Early's Army till it was given over, when it returned to the vicinity of Cedar Creek where it encamped on the western side of the 10th of October.

When the first attack of Early's Army was made on the 19th of October with Sheridan away, and the 8th corps was flying back a disorganized mob, the position of the 12th Maine was exposed to a flank fire from both Artillery and Infantry from the rear of the latter of which a fire was received for nearly half an hour before the orders were obeyed to move to the right. They were tardy in getting away from the enemy's fire, and not till it was apparent to every one that a longer stay would sacrifice the men uselessly did the Regt. fall back. It had to go with the rest of the 19th Corps to the rear. There was no help for it. Men aroused from their slumbers by the fearful sound of the Rebel yell, and hastily forming as best they would be likely to wilt away like dew before the sun, when 10,000 disciplined troops had resolutely charged upon them. The enemy had provided for all contingencies except one--the hunger of their men. Their march and assault was a brilliant success but at the sight of the bountifully supplied camps of the Union soldiers they could not resist the temptation to stop eat and plunder, before finishing up the job. Well, it must be seen it was absolutely necessary for our Army that something should turn up to give it time. Time to bring up Sheridan on his black horse covered with foam. Time to collect the scattered forces and form in line of battle. Time to restore confidence, and infuse the courage which had departed, and time to win back victory at night, hopelessly lost in morning.

In the afternoon we find them again on the front line as the troops were drawn up for the desperate charge. A long thin line faced the enemy. In front of Maine men were Rebel soldiers behind a stone wall. Imagine if can the officers and men of the 12th Maine as they stood waiting for the word. The soldierly Kimball, the grim and stern Hastings, the men fresh from far south, glorying in their record made among the hostile Rebels of New Orleans and at Port Hudson. "Forward!"

Slowly and determinedly the line moves on. An instant amid the clash of arms and the roar of musketry, the come almost to a standstill; it is but for a moment. A gallant officer waves his sword in the air, and shouts to his men to follow as he dashes toward the Rebel line. The effect is electric. With cheers the whole line passes forward, the stone wall is scaled, and soon the enemy is in swift retreat. What a glorious victory. All honors to the officials and men who won it. The officers report says: "In the afternoon when the charge was made the Regt. did good execution driving the enemy from before it in confusion and pursue it until dark." It lost in the engagement 7 killed, 22 wounded and 53 missing principally prisoners. The Regt. was mustered out of service on the 17th of December 1864, the recruits and re-enlisted men being organized into a battalion.

After the Rebel Armies had surrendered the battalion which had been raised to a full regiment with the same Col., Lieut. Col., and Major was stationed at Savannah, GA, Col. Kimball having charge of a sub district under Gen. Grover. The Regt. was finally mustered out April 18, 1866.

(to be continued in the next issue)

SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT FROM EXXON FOR VIDEO EQUIPMENT

A \$1000 grant from the Exxon Volunteer Involvement Fund has been received by the Society toward the purchase of a large screen television with built-in VCR as well as stand and another VCR to allow the Society to make video copies of its meetings and special events. This gift was made possible through Walter Hatch, Society president, who is an Exxon annuitant and a very active volunteer.

"We are very grateful to Walter and Exxon for this donation," Charles Raymond, Society Board of Trustees chairman, said in announcing the grant. "It will be very much appreciated by our members and visitors at meetings and special events since there are some very high quality videos relating to local and regional history that we can now show with the proper equipment."

BETHEL'S MAIN STREET THROUGH HISTORY: A HISTORICAL SURVEY

By Rosalind R. Chapman

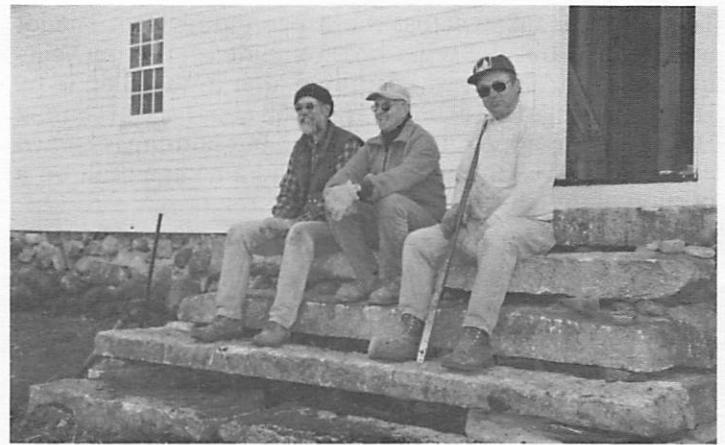
(Part 2, continued from the last issue)

27. The Cole Block was built in 1891 by Fred and Elmer Cole. No building stood on this lot previously and the Cole brothers soon went bankrupt in the venture. Among the workmen who helped build the building were several from the Cole brothers' native East Bethel: N.F. Swan, John Swan and Charles Swan. On the first floor were Edward King's Jewelry Store (optometry was added in 1897) and Miss Burnham's Millinery. Later Edward P. Lyon (1875-1956) ran a jewelry and gift shop in this location. In 1915, Lyon purchased the jewelry and photograph departments of Edward King's store and combined it with his own. King continued to sell goods and novelties. Each occupied one half of this space until later that year, when after twenty years in business here, he sold everything to Lyon and moved to Fellsmere, Florida, where he operated a hardware and furniture store with his brother Frank. Addie Andrews, King's manager, was retained by Lyon. The other side was the headquarters of the Bethel National Bank and the Bethel Savings Bank. The Bethel National Bank was succeeded by Casco Bank and Trust Company in November 1945 and moved to the former Lyon's Store space in November 1946, remaining there until 1968 when it moved down to the present Key Bank location. The town office was moved downstairs to this site that year. Addison Herrick (1847-1932) and Ellery Park (1864-1949) had a law office on the side of the building from the 1890s until the mid-1940s. Further back was the office of the *Bethel News*, founded in 1895 and succeeded by the *Bethel Citizen* in 1908. Among the printers who have worked here are Leach, Henry O. Archibald, Gordon Lathrop, and C. Brown (1893-1963), whose sons Donald (1919-1996), Edwin (1915-1997), and John spent most of their working years here as well. Lathrop, who married Beulah Burris, wrote a column, "The Finger Points," which focused on local issues and often stirred controversy, so much so that

eventually it was discontinued. S.W. Buck moved into the building to sell Remington and Buffalo Cycle Co. bicycles in 1896. Upstairs were the town offices, telephone office, and Odeon Hall, where Gould graduations were held until the 1920s as well as winter Chatauquas, William Rogers Chapman's concerts, Roman Catholic services, dances, town meetings, silent movies, Harvey Bragdon's "talkies," plus minstrel shows and dramatic presentations. A number of famous people have been featured here including Metropolitan Opera singer Geraldine Farrar who once sang here and Jane Addams of Hull House who spoke on her work in Chicago in 1910. In 1907, a fire destroyed the News office and Edward King's store. Early Real Estate moved to the site of the Bethel Savings Bank offices after the Bank moved next door in 1974. Later A.D. Davis Insurance was here, followed by W.J. Wheeler Insurance, which has been here for more than ten years. Donald S. Brown once had a photography studio here in the 1950s. In the 1930s, many citizens gathered to watch a "human fly" scale the walls to the roof.

28. The site of the present Northeast Bank (the name was changed in July 1996) was the location of a building constructed by Robert A. Chapman (1812-1880) and later sold to Samuel A. Brock (1835-1909), a hardware merchant. Others doing business here were William (1851-1925) and Tom (1871-1920) Hastings, G.L. Thurston (1865-1952), who bought out the Hastings Bros. in 1914, J.P. Butts, Roger Reynolds, the Specialty Shop (operated by Rose Rozek), the Bethel post office (1939-1942), Warren Bean's (1914-1953) appliance store and oil business, and Wheeler's mica shop. E.P. Lyon moved here after he left the Cole Block and remained until his death in the mid-1950s. G.L. Thurston installed a curb gasoline pump outside the store in 1916. About 1960, the building was converted to a Laundromat which was operated by Lawrence and "Honey" Bailey until the early 1970s when it was sold to the Bethel Savings Bank. The building was razed in 1973 and the bank building dedicated in 1974.

29. The so-called Pushard Drug Store block, destroyed by fire in 1916, presumably began in 1860 as the building mentioned in the *Bethel Courier* of 27 July 1860, which



Don Bean, Allan Abbott, and Arlan Jodrey pause after placing the granite for the back steps at the Dr. Moses Mason House in October, replacing a set of deteriorating wooden ones that were removed during the summer. The granite, which once supported building foundations, was donated by Katheryn Eames, Francis and Mary Lou Berry, Carolyn Brooks, and Stan Howe. It was hauled to the site by Robert Blake and Arlan Jodrey. Many thanks are due everyone who made these steps a reality.

once stood where the present brick block does on Broad Street. It was moved to this site and housed the shoe shop of A.P. Knight on the upper story and the dental office of Dr. Barker. Also Miss Towne had a millinery shop on the lower floor. R.E.L. Farwell (1840-1917) once operated a grocery store here. He sold to J.S. Hutchins in 1913. George T. Lawrence, who moved to Bethel from South Paris in 1878, had a jewelry business here until it was purchased in 1910 by E.P. Lyon. Later Pushard's Drug Store occupied the first floor (H.S. Pushard came here from Fryeburg in 1905) with Dr. Francis B. Tuell (1847-1925), dentist, upstairs. When fire gutted the building in 1916, Tristram Durell died helping at the hose cart. Dr. E.L. Brown (1885-1967) was overcome by smoke as he was carrying out the dental cabinets from the upstairs office he shared with Dr.

(continued on page 12)

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Tuell. He was taken across the street and revived. The lot was cleared, but the cellar hole remained for many years until filled in 1950. It was acquired after it was filled in by Henry Hastings (1918-1968). The 1858 atlas lists an "Eating House" in this approximate location, but nothing is known about it. In 1969, Annie Hastings had a garage built on a portion of this site.

30. On the 1858 atlas the corner now occupied by Annie Hastings was marked "Richard A. Frye's Law Office" and "Hiram Young's Harness Shop" Young's Harness Shop was upstairs and on the first floor he had a liquor agency for some time. His son Elmer (1858-1921) continued to make harnesses in the days before the automobile. Previous to the arrival of lawyer Frye it is believed that John Oliver (1795-1861), the hatter, had a place here, as well as a dwelling. The building was later moved down Church Street across from the Congregational Church and his shop moved to the area where the Opera House Condos are today. Others connected with this site have been Charles Lucas (1857-1916), who purchased Milton Penley's meat business in October 1899 sold beef, pork, lamb, sausage, tripe, oysters, clams and peanuts, Llewellyn Ramsell (1878-1937), and John S. Allen, (1863-1909) grocers. Allen was killed by his horse. In 1901, Lucas opened a bakery above his store. In 1911, Jameson L. Finney sold electric appliances and table lamps at C.A. Lucas' store. Fred Wheeler ran an ice cream parlor and cash only grocery here, beginning in 1917. Lepine Morse (known as "Leaping Morse") also operated a grocery store here. Frank Goddard, telegraph operator and photographer, had an apartment and studio here. Mrs. Henry Hastings, Sr. (Ethel) moved here in 1939 when the Hastings house on Church Street was razed to make room for Gould Academy's Farnsworth House. Henry Hastings, Sr. (1865-1934), who came here in 1899, succeeded Richard Frye in this location. Upon his death, Gerard S. Williams, an attorney from Farmington, practiced law here. Following service in World War II, Williams returned to Farmington. Henry H. Hastings, Jr. (1918-1968) was admitted to both the Maine and Massachusetts bars in 1944 and began practicing here in 1946. Following his death, this office was closed.

(continued in the next issue)



Hastings Bros. Hardware, Main Street, prior to 1914 (see site 28).

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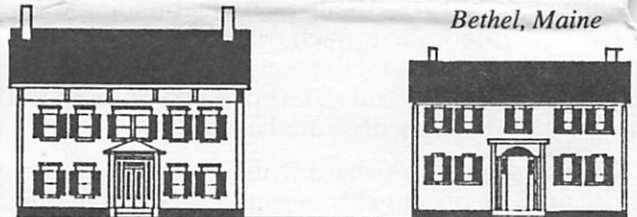
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